

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01
ACDA-10 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /049 W
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R 261833Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5080
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01543

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS, OCON, GW
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - FRG POSITION

REFS: (A) USNATO 0366 DTG 211813Z JAN 77
(B) BONN 18767 DTG 051712Z NOV 76
(C) BONN 1204 DTG 201729Z JAN 77
(D) BONN 1308 DTG 211815Z JAN 77
(E) BONN 00372 DTG 071701Z JAN 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG DEFENSE ADVISER SCHUENEMANN'S
REMARKS CONCERNING THE FRG POSITION ON NATO AWACS (REF
A) GENERALLY CONFIRM PREVIOUS REPORTING. WE DO NOT,
HOWEVER, AGREE WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT BONN SUPPORTERS
OF AWACS CONSIDER THAT SYSTEM TO BE PRIMARILY OF VALUE
ON NATO'S FLANKS. END SUMMARY.

1. GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES WITH WHOM WE HAVE
SPOKEN CONSIDER AWACS USE ON THE FLANKS TO BE A BONUS
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OVER AND ABOVE ITS BASIC RAISON D'ETRE: SERVICE ON THE
CENTRAL FRONT. WE BELIEVE GENERAL SCHUENEMANN IS OTHER-
WISE CORRECT IN HIS ANALYSIS OF THE FRG POSITION CON-
CERNING NATO AWACS AND HAVE SO REPORTED IN THE PAST.

2. WITHIN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (FMOD), THE
THREE MILITARY SERVICES ARE IN THE OPPOSITION CORNER;

MORE PRECISELY, THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE FRG'S PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM PARTLY BECAUSE OF DOUBTS CONCERNING ITS COST-EFFECTIVENESS BUT MORE PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT FRG PARTICIPATION WOULD MEAN THE CANCELLATION AND STRETCH-OUT OF OTHER GERMAN MILITARY EXPENDITURES TO WHICH THEY GIVE A HIGHER PRIORITY. SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM WITHIN THE FMOD IS CONCENTRATED IN THE JOINT STAFF AND ESPECIALLY AMONG THE CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP.

3. MINISTER LEBER IS, AS WE HAVE SAID, BASICALLY IN FAVOR OF A NATO AWACS PROGRAM. HIS REASONS FOR BEING SO ARE IN PART MILITARY (I.E., HE BELIEVES THE SYSTEM WOULD IMPROVE NATO DEFENSES) AND IN PART POLITICAL. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, HE NOT ONLY SEES THAT AWACS WOULD BE AN INTEGRATIVE FORCE FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE, HE ALSO DOES NOT WANT THE FRG TO BE SEEN AS THE COUNTRY WHICH KILLS THE PROGRAM. GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTERS ARE CAREFUL TO KEEP THEIR FENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES WELL MENDED AND LEBER IS NO EXCEPTION.

4. WHILE LEBER'S SUPPORT FOR A DEFENSE PROGRAM WOULD NORMALLY BE DECISIVE, AWACS IS A SPECIAL CASE. HONEST QUESTIONS WHICH THE GERMAN UNIFORMED SERVICES HAVE ABOUT AWACS' INTERFACE WITH THE CURRENT GROUND SYSTEM, ABOUT COST SHARING, AND ABOUT PARTICIPATION BY OTHER NATO GOVERNMENTS MUST BE ANSWERED (REF B). QUESTIONS AS TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01543

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THE SYSTEM'S COST-EFFECTIVENESS AS RAISED BY VARIOUS
OPPOSITION DEFENSE EXPERTS (REF C) WILL LIKEWISE HAVE TO
BE ADDRESSED. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE U.S. SHOULD BE
PREPARED QUICKLY TO SATISFY ANY POSSIBLE FMOD REQUESTS
FOR SUPPORTIVE DATA WHICH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT
WISH TO USE WITH THE BUNDESTAG OPPOSITION.

5. AS FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG LIKE KARL
DAMM WHO WANT TO TIE FRG PARTICIPATION IN A NATO AWACS
PROGRAM WITH A U.S. COMMITMENT CONCERNING THE LEOPARD 2
(REF D), ALL WE CAN DO IS QUIETLY AND FIRMLY POINT OUT
THAT THERE IS NO LOGICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO
PROGRAMS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST REALIZE THAT LEBER
HIMSELF IS COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO TIE THE
TWO TOGETHER IN SOME FORM OR OTHER.

6. CONCLUSION: GENERAL SCHUENEMANN'S REMARKS SERVED TO
UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THE POLITICAL
CONSTRAINTS WITH WHICH MINISTER LEBER IS FACED. THEY
ALSO EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF ALLOWING THE GERMAN
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GOVERNMENT ADEQUATE TIME TO GET THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IF WE WANT THE WEST GERMANS TO PAR-
TICIPATE IN A NATO AWACS PROGRAM (REF E).
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